

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

*Please replace paragraph [0084] with the following amended paragraph:*

[0084] The capability for determining and aggregating the content objects 20 presented to a specific user on content selection web pages 22 are derived from content preferences selections provided by the user. For example, referring now to FIG. 22 a content preference selection web page 24 is shown with content selection check boxes 42 beside content selection labels 43 46 that describe a variety of content choices. The user uses the mouse to click on the boxes next to desired content types, as shown in FIG. 22. Thereafter upon returning to content selection web page 22, only content objects 20 that relate to the selected content types are displayed to the user. Functionally, content selection labels 43 46 are graphical representations of HTML links to actual content files, such as digital audio or digital video files. These links are organized and stored in a content link database 126 on content link database server 130. The actual content files to which content selection labels 43 46 refer are stored at the content creator's or content aggregator's servers.

*Please replace paragraph [0119] with the following amended paragraph:*

[0119] Client devices 78 can take many physical forms but the common attribute is that it client devices 78 are nodes on LAN 70, receiving digital content and data 10, and instructions, from core module 42 subsystem of the system control application 18, and sending back XML message 74 control instructions and data from interaction or data that

originates at client devices 78. In the preferred embodiment client devices 78 include webpad 92, audio playback device 86, Internet clock 82, digital picture frame 100, and automotive storage device 142. Generally, client devices depend on LAN 70 connectivity to provide the majority of their functionality. Client devices 78 range widely in the amount of integral memory capability. For purposes of clarity, the preferred embodiment shows in detail how content is set up, organized, and scheduled for delivery to two media player devices: audio playback device 86 that is connected to a stereo receiver 114 115, and Internet connected clock 82. However, it should be clearly understood that the system is designed to function with a wide variety of networked client devices 78 and audio playback device 86 and Internet clock 82 are described as examples of how the system functions.

*Please replace paragraph [0120] with the following amended paragraph:*

[0120] FIG. 12 shows an isometric view of the audio playback device 86. The purpose of audio playback device 86 is to functionally connect digital audio content from a remote digital audio source to an already existing conventional stereo system. Audio playback device 86 receives a stream of encoded audio content from PC 34 or storage gateway 38, real-time decodes it in real-time, and converts the uncompressed digital information into analog electrical signals. Audio playback device 86 includes a plastic injection-molded main housing 168 that contains a printed-circuit board (PCB) 218. PCB 218 electrically connects the components of a computer, comprised of a microprocessor 208 with dynamic memory (SDRAM) 212 and programmable (flash) memory 216. Microprocessor 208 in combination with dynamic memory 212 executes instructions

from its operating system and programming, referred to as the firmware 220 stored in programmable memory 216. Audio playback device 86 also includes a wireless network interface sub-system 228 for communicating with PC 34 and storage gateway 38, an infra-red (IR) control sub-system 146 for processing IR commands from the IR remote control 90, and a display 170 sub-system for presenting text and graphical information to the user. Audio playback device 86 also includes a digital-to-analog converter (DAC) 224 for converting the uncompressed digital information into analog signals that are presented at the standard left and right RCA connectors, 240 and 244. Audio playback device 86 firmware 220 also includes a CODEC for decoding the audio file that is streamed to it from PC 34 or storage gateway 38. In this embodiment, remote control 90 can be attached to audio playback device 86 front bezel ~~164~~ 160, as shown in FIG. 12. FIG. 20 shows remote control 90 removed from the front bezel. FIG. 19 is a block diagram showing how left analog output 240 and right analog output 244 included in audio content playback device 86 are connected respectively to the left line input 248 and right line input 252 on existing stereo receiver ~~114~~ 115. Stereo receiver ~~114~~ 115 functions in the conventional way, pre-amplifying and amplifying the audio signals and delivering them to the left speaker 272 and the right speaker 276. As shown in FIG. 19, audio playback device 86 also includes a terrestrial broadcast tuner subsystem 236 for tuning local AM and FM broadcast radio.

*Please replace paragraph [0155] with the following amended paragraph:*

[0155] PC desktop 12 in FIG. 4 also shows content selection web page 22. Content selection web page 22 can be launched in a number of ways. One method for launching

content selection web page 22 is to activate the Content guide button ~~33~~ 44 located on the bottom of console 16 by using the mouse to place the pointer on top of Content guide button ~~33~~ 44, and pressing and releasing the left mouse button. Another launching method is to have content selection web page 22 "bookmarked" (Netscape Navigator) in a browser, or added to a "favorites" list in a browser (Microsoft Internet Explorer). This type of Internet 8 browsing shortcut to a specific web page is well known in the computer industry.

*Please replace paragraph [0156] with the following amended paragraph:*

[0156] The spherical icons on content selection web page 22 are content objects 20 that are dragged and dropped onto the audio device content editor 24 tracks window ~~34~~ 66. Using the mouse to control the pointer on PC desktop 12, the user moves the pointer on top of content object 20, depresses the left mouse button, and moves the pointer-content object 20 bundle to tracks window ~~34~~ 66 of audio device content editor 24 (while continuing to depress the left mouse button). When the user releases the left mouse button, a text description of content object 20 appears in tracks window ~~34~~ 66 of audio device content editor 24. FIG. 5 shows that content object 20 "Top 40 Radio" has been dragged from content selection web page 22 to audio device content editor 24 tracks window ~~34~~ 66, with drag and drop path 28 depicted. The user would perform this drag and drop operation on content objects 20 for which playback at audio playback device 86 is desired. For example, the "Top 40 Radio" content object 20 represents the URL of an Internet 8 radio stream. As shown in FIG. 6, the user can also add audio files to the playlists using a conventional Windows dialog box that allows the user to navigate to a

specific sub-directory on PC 34. This type of PC 34 file access is a well known function of PCs 34. Audio device content editor 24 also provides the capability for the user to create playlists. This is accomplished by using the New List button 37, shown as part of audio device content editor 24 in FIG. 4 through FIG. 7. FIG. 7 shows that a playlist creation text entry box 36 is launched when the user activates New List button 37.

*Please replace paragraph [0161] with the following amended paragraph:*

[0161] In real-time mode, the user can activate and control the delivery of content 10 that has been set-up in audio device content editor 24, either at audio playback device 86, or at PC 34. In the preferred embodiment where audio playback device 86 is connected to stereo receiver 114 115, the user can access the playlist information on an interface at audio playback device 86. FIG. 12 shows that remote control 90 is used to access the source, playlist, and track (content object 20) at audio playback device 86. Display 170 included on audio playback device 86 displays text information according to the manipulations of the controls by the user. For example, when the user presses forward playlist button 176 on remote control 90, an IR stream is transmitted from remote control 90 and is received by IR subsystem 104 on audio playback device 86. This message is decoded by microprocessor 208 in audio playback device 86 as a forward select button selection, and an XML message 74 is sent from audio playback device 86 to core module 42 requesting that a string of text that represents the next playlist title be sent via high-speed LAN 70 to audio playback device 86. Core module 42 receives XML message 74 and sends the text string representing the next playlist to audio playback device 86, via

high-speed LAN 70. Microprocessor 208 processes this XML message 74 and displays the text string on audio playback device 86 display 170.

*Please replace paragraph [0164] with the following amended paragraph:*

[0164] The following is a list of controls and features for audio playback device controller 60: a play/pause button 80 (holding down play button causes the player to fast forward, playing brief samples of the audio file at muted volume); a stop button 76; a track backward button 72; a track forward button 84; a balance slider 94 98.

*Please replace paragraph [0165] with the following amended paragraph:*

[0165] The following is a list of controls for features on Internet clock controller 88: ramp display back light during wakeup routine (slowly increase the light of the display during the wakeup routine); ramp audio volume during wakeup routine (slowly increase the volume of the device during the wakeup routine; length of dwell time for snooze button (the length of time that Internet clock 82 is dormant after snooze button 120 is activated; deactivate snooze button 120 (no snoozing); length of time for sleep mode (the length of time Internet clock 82 will play content 10 when activated at night while the user is falling asleep). The function controls now shown in FIG. 16 are available on an additional menu accessed by activating "more" button ~~112~~ 110.

*Please replace paragraph [0183] with the following amended paragraph:*

[0183] The user could attach a digital image to one of the softkey buttons located on Internet clock 82. A separate GUI, the digital image editor 96 102 would be accessed via

the left-mouse-click on Internet clock 82 client device control bar 26 located on console 16. Launching this editor is similar to launching audio device content editor 24, described previously. FIG. 18 shows an example of digital image editor 96 102. There is a frame into which the user can drag-and-drop image files, or the user can navigate to image files via a conventional dialog box, and add these image files to the frame. The frame would then show a small image of the actual file. The user can drag-and-drop these images to reorder them.

*Please replace paragraph [0184] with the following amended paragraph:*

[0184] Alternatively, dedicated digital picture frame 100 can be used to display digital images. Referring again to FIG. 18, digital image editor 96 102 is a GUI that is used to create a digital image playlist for such a device. Digital image editor 96 102 is launched by left-clicking on the "digital image player" client device control bar 26 on console 16.